

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 76.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE.

AN ACT to increase the efficiency of the public schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be one person elected in
2 each county in this state who shall be styled the com-
3 missioner of schools; commissioners of schools shall
4 be elected and notified, their elections determined and
5 vacancies filled; and they shall enter upon the dis-
6 charge of their duties at the time, and hold their
7 offices for the term of three years, as is provided
8 respecting county commissioners, by chapter seventy-
9 eight of the revised statutes.

SECT. 2. Each commissioner shall, with the help of
2 one or more of the other commissioners, hold two
3 normal institutes in his county each year. These

4 institutes shall continue, each, at least three weeks.
5 Classes shall be formed, and instruction given by the
6 commissioners in charge, in the various elementary
7 branches of learning taught in the public schools, and
8 also in the theory and practice of teaching, in order
9 that the members of the institutes, by thorough drill
10 in a working, model school, may be better prepared to
11 teach.

SECT. 3. Each commissioner shall visit, twice in
2 each term, every high school in his county supported
3 in part by money from the state, and in connection
4 with the superintending school committee having such
5 school in charge, shall examine the school, as to its
6 attainments and work, and shall make report to the
7 state superintendent of common schools, of the char-
8 acter of the work done in such school and whether
9 such school has complied with the conditions of the
10 law providing state aid for such school.

SECT. 4. Each commissioner shall call a convention
2 of the superintending school committees of the towns
3 in the county, to meet once in each year and to con-
4 tinue in session for two days. At such meeting the
5 methods of town supervision shall be discussed in order
6 that more efficient methods of examination and inspec-
7 tion of the public schools may be agreed upon ; com-
8 mittees in attendance at such county conventions shall

9 be entitled to the same pay from their towns as is now
10 provided for other service of said committee.

SECT. 5. At such county convention, there shall be
2 elected by ballot, four persons, who with the county
3 commissioners, shall constitute a county board of
4 examiners.

SECT. 6. The county board of examiners shall hold
2 annually in each county, four meetings, of two days
3 each, two of which shall be in connection with the
4 normal institute provided in section two. At such
5 meetings all teachers presenting themselves for exam-
6 ination shall be examined by writing in such studies
7 as the examining board may determine in accordance
8 with the laws of the state. The examining board
9 shall after careful examination grant to all persons so
10 examined, certificates stating the rank obtained by
11 such examination. They shall divide such certificates
12 into three classes or grades. The first grade shall be
13 in force without further examination ; the second class
14 shall be in force for two years, and the third class
15 shall be in force for one year. Such certificate shall
16 be in force in any school in this state. Any person
17 teaching in any of the public schools of this state,
18 after the first day of September eighteen hundred and
19 seventy-four, without such certificate, or a diploma

20 from a state normal school, shall not be entitled to
21 collect pay for such service.

SECT. 7: Each commissioner shall visit each town
2 in the county each year, and, if possible, in connec-
3 tion with the school committee of the town, visit each
4 school in the town. He shall note carefully the modes
5 of instruction and discipline in such school; shall
6 make such suggestions for the instruction and encour-
7 agement of teacher and pupils as he may deem neces-
8 sary; he shall try by conversation with the people,
9 and by public addresses in various parts of the town
10 to arouse and deepen the interest in public education.

SECT. 8. These county commissioners of schools
2 shall constitute a state board of education. The
3 superintendent of common schools shall be secretary
4 of the board, and shall call a meeting of such board,
5 to continue not more than five days in one year, at
6 such time and place as the said secretary shall deem
7 best. At such meeting public discussions shall be
8 had on matters pertaining to the interest and efficiency
9 of the public schools of Maine.

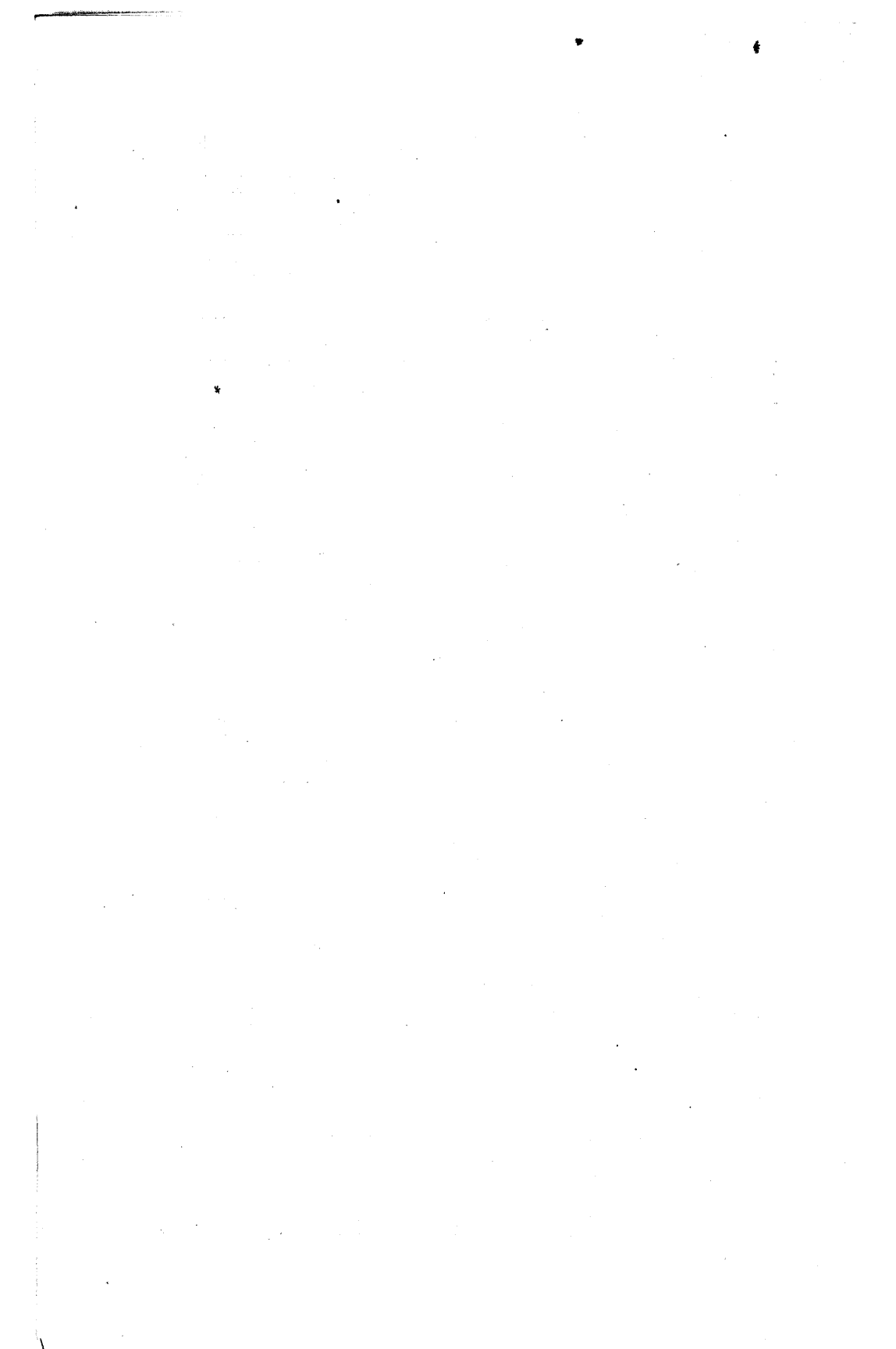
SECT. 9. Each commissioner shall, on or before the
2 first day of April, July, October and January of each
3 year, return to the state superintendent of schools a
4 full report of his doings for the quarter, including a
5 report of the number and character of the schools

6 visited ; the public meetings held ; the free high
7 schools examined ; the institutes held, with the num-
8 ber of teachers attending them ; the names of all
9 teachers examined by the examining board, and the
10 grade of certificate granted to each ; the reports of
11 the county conventions held, with the numbers attend-
12 ing, the subjects discussed, with the names of the
13 persons elected as county examiners, and any other
14 matters of interest to the schools of this state. On
15 the approval of such quarterly report by the state
16 superintendent, and its subsequent approval by the
17 governor and council, the governor shall draw his
18 warrant on the treasurer in favor of such commis-
19 sioner for the sum of three hundred and seventy-five
20 dollars, which sum shall be in full for all pay for ser-
21 vice and travel of such commissioner for the quarter.

SECT. 10. The county examiners elected according
2 to the provisions of section five, shall receive from the
3 state the same pay as is now provided by law for the
4 pay of superintending school committees of towns.
5 Their accounts shall be approved and paid in the
6 same manner as those of the county commissioners of
7 schools.

SECT. 11. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SECT. 12. This act shall take effect when approved.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 25, 1873. }

Reported from the Committee on Education, by Mr. COR-
THELL, and ordered printed under the rules.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*